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SPINE MP
LERNER DAVID, et al.
600 SOUTH AVENUE WEST
WESTFIELD, NJ 07090

MAILED

JAN 28 2010

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. **7,223,290**
Issue Date: May 29, 2007
Application No. 10/642,527
Filed: August 15, 2003
Attorney Docket No. **SPINE 3.0-437**
PPPPP CON XV

: DECISION GRANTING PETITION
: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) AND
: REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF
: CORRECTION

:

This is a decision on the renewed petition, filed July 21, 2009, which is being treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), seeking to add a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to nonprovisional Application No. 10/256,160, filed September 26, 2002, by way of a certificate of correction.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

A review of the file record fails to disclose that a claim for the benefit of priority to the above-noted, prior-filed nonprovisional application was made within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and further failed to include a proper reference to the prior-filed application as required by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) and 1.78(a)(2)(iii).

The instant application was filed August 15, 2003. Therefore, since this application was filed after November 29, 2000, a petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), along with submission of a Certificate of Correction, is the appropriate avenue of relief to accept a late claim for the benefit of priority to a prior-filed nonprovisional application after issuance of the application into a patent. See MPEP 1481.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and

- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

As the petition for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to the above-noted, prior-filed nonprovisional application satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), the petition is granted.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the above-noted, prior-filed nonprovisional application, accompanies this decision on petition.

Petitioner is advised that the granting of this petition and the mailing of a corrected Filing Receipt should not be viewed as an indication that a determination has been made that this application is entitled to claim benefit of the prior-filed application. A determination that applicant is entitled to claim benefit of the prior-filed application will be made by the Examiner prior to the mailing of a certificate of correction.

As authorized, the \$1,410 surcharge fee, as well as the \$100 certificate of correction fee, has been charged to petitioner's Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Monica A. Graves at (571) 272-7253.

This application is being referred to the Certificates of Correction Branch for processing the request for a certificate of correction in accordance with this decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3).


Christopher Bottorff
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt



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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY.DOCKET.NO	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
10/642,527	08/15/2003	3738	675	SPINE 3.0-437 PPPPPCON XV	20	3

CONFIRMATION NO. 3169

CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT

51640

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OC000000039873327

Date Mailed: 01/27/2010

Receipt is acknowledged of this non-provisional patent application. The application will be taken up for examination in due course. Applicant will be notified as to the results of the examination. Any correspondence concerning the application must include the following identification information: the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please submit a written request for a Filing Receipt Correction. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections.

Applicant(s)

Joseph P. Errico, Green Brook, NJ;
Michael W. Dudasik, Nutley, NJ;
Rafail Zubok, Midland Park, NJ;

Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 000530

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a CON of 10/256,160 09/26/2002 PAT 6,989,032
which is a CON of 10/175,417 06/19/2002 PAT 7,563,285
which is a CON of 10/151,280 05/20/2002 PAT 7,604,664
which is a CON of 09/970,479 10/04/2001 PAT 6,669,730
and is a CON of 10/140,153 05/07/2002 ABN
and said 09/970,479 10/04/2001
is a CON of 09/968,046 10/01/2001 ABN
and said 10/140,153 05/07/2002
is a CON of 09/970,479 10/04/2001 PAT 6,669,730
and is a CON of 10/128,619 04/23/2002 PAT 6,863,689
which is a CON of 09/906,119 07/16/2001 PAT 6,607,559
and is a CON of 09/982,148 10/18/2001 PAT 6,673,113

Foreign Applications

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 11/11/2003

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention,
is **US 10/642,527**

Projected Publication Date: Not Applicable

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title

AXIALLY COMPRESSIBLE ARTIFICIAL INTERVERTEBRAL DISC HAVING A CAPTURED BALL
AND SOCKET JOINT WITH A SOLID BALL AND COMPRESSION LOCKING POST

Preliminary Class

623

PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html>.

For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, <http://www.stopfakes.gov>. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific countries such as China, Korea and Mexico. For questions regarding patent enforcement issues, applicants may call the U.S. Government hotline at 1-866-999-HALT (1-866-999-4158).

**LICENSE FOR FOREIGN FILING UNDER
Title 35, United States Code, Section 184
Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15**

GRANTED

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The grant of a license does not in any way lessen the responsibility of a licensee for the security of the subject matter as imposed by any Government contract or the provisions of existing laws relating to espionage and the national security or the export of technical data. Licensees should apprise themselves of current regulations especially with respect to certain countries, of other agencies, particularly the Office of Defense Trade Controls, Department of State (with respect to Arms, Munitions and Implements of War (22 CFR 121-128)); the Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce (15 CFR parts 730-774); the Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of Treasury (31 CFR Parts 500+) and the Department of Energy.

NOT GRANTED

No license under 35 U.S.C. 184 has been granted at this time, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" DOES NOT appear on this form. Applicant may still petition for a license under 37 CFR 5.12, if a license is desired before the expiration of 6 months from the filing date of the application. If 6 months has lapsed from the filing date of this application and the licensee has not received any indication of a secrecy order under 35 U.S.C. 181, the licensee may foreign file the application pursuant to 37 CFR 5.15(b).